

Pharmacists Protocol for Dispensing Emergency Contraception

Senate Bill 490 (Chapter 651, Statutes of 2003) permits pharmacists to furnish emergency contraception medications based on a statewide protocol adopted by the California State Board of Pharmacy and the Medical Board of California.

On the following page is the approved protocol. Pharmacists may use this protocol after they have completed one hour of continuing education credit in emergency contraception (a requirement of the new law).

Prior legislation (Senate Bill 1169, Chapter 900, Statutes of 2001) permits pharmacists to furnish emergency contraception medications to patients based on a protocol with a single licensed prescriber. Existing protocols developed with a prescriber remain valid.

The protocol was prepared with the intent to keep it simple and to comply with the statutory requirements established by Senate Bill 490.

The statutory provisions for pharmacists furnishing emergency contraception are found in California Business and Professions Code section 4052.

Protocol for Pharmacists Furnishing Emergency Contraception (EC)

Authority: Section 4052 of the California Business and Professions Code authorizes a pharmacist to furnish emergency contraception pursuant to a protocol approved by the Board of Pharmacy and the Medical Board of California. Use of the following protocol satisfies that requirement.

Purpose: To provide access to emergency contraceptive medication within required limits and ensure that the patient receives adequate information to successfully complete therapy.

Procedure: When a patient requests emergency contraception the pharmacist will ask and state the following:

- Are you allergic to any medications?
- Timing is an essential element of the product's effectiveness. EC should be taken as soon as possible after unprotected intercourse. Treatment may be initiated up to five days (120 hours) of unprotected intercourse. EC effectiveness declines gradually over five days and EC use will not interfere with an established pregnancy.

The pharmacist shall provide the fact sheet and review any questions the patient may have regarding EC. In addition, the pharmacist shall collect the information required for a patient medical record by Section 1707.1 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (reference attached).

Fact Sheet: The pharmacist will provide the patient with a copy of the current EC fact sheet approved by the Board of Pharmacy.

Referrals and Supplies: If emergency contraception services are not immediately available at the pharmacy or the pharmacist declines to furnish pursuant to conscience clause, the pharmacist will refer the patient to another emergency contraception provider. The pharmacist shall comply with all state mandatory reporting laws, including sexual abuse laws.

The pharmacist may provide up to 12 non-spermicidal condoms to each Medi-Cal and Family PACT client who obtains emergency contraception.

Advanced Provision: The pharmacist may dispense emergency contraception medication for a patient in advance of the need for emergency contraception.

EC Product Selection: The pharmacist will provide emergency contraception medication compatible with product information from the list of products appended to this protocol. This list must be kept current and maintained in the pharmacy. Along with emergency contraception products, the list will include adjunctive medications indicated for nausea and vomiting associated with taking EC. Patients will be provided information concerning dosing and potential adverse effects.

Documentation: Each prescription authorized by a pharmacist will be documented in a patient profile as required by law.

Training: Prior to furnishing emergency contraception, pharmacists who participate in this protocol must have completed a minimum of one hour of continuing education specific to emergency contraception.

Appendix 1 -- Brands and Doses of Oral Contraceptive Tablets Used for Emergency Contraception.

Brands and Doses Of Oral Contraceptive Tablets Used For Emergency Contraception

<i>Dedicated Emergency Contraception</i>				
Brand	Manufacturer	Tablets per Dose	Ethinyl Estradiol per Dose (mg)	Levonorgestrel per Dose (mg)**
One Dose Regimen				
Plan B	Women's Capital Corporation	2 tablets	0	1.5
Two Dose Regimens				
Plan B	Women's Capital Corporation	1 tablet per dose	0	0.75
Preven	Gynetics	2 tablets per dose	100	0.50
<i>Oral Contraceptive Pills</i>				
Brand	Manufacturer	Tablets per Dose (two doses 12 hours apart *)	Ethinyl Estradiol per Dose (mg)	Levonorgestrel per Dose (mg)*
Levora	Watson	4 white tablets	120	0.60
Ovral	Wyeth	2 white tablets	100	0.50
Ogestrel	Watson	2 white tablets	100	0.50
Nordette	Wyeth	4 light-orange tablets	120	0.60
Tri-Levlen	Berlex	4 yellow tablets	100	0.50
Alesse	Wyeth	5 pink tablets	100	0.50
Aviane	Duramed	5 orange tablets	100	0.50
Triphasil	Wyeth	4 yellow tablets	120	0.50
Levlen	Berlex	4 light-orange tablets	120	0.60
Trivora	Watson	4 pink tablets	120	0.50
Levlite	Berlex	5 pink tablets	100	0.50
Lo/Ovral	Wyeth	4 white tablets	120	0.60

Low-Ogestrel	Watson	4 white tablets	120	0.60
Ovrette	Wyeth	20 yellow tablets	0	0.75

* The progestin in Ovral, Lo/Ovral, and Ovrette is norgestrel, which contains two isomers, only one of which (levonorgestrel) is bioactive; the amount of norgestrel in each dose is twice the amount of levonorgestrel

Appendix 2 -- Sample list of Anti-Emetics for Use with Emergency Contraception.

**Anti-nausea Treatment Options
for use with Emergency Contraception**

Drug	Dose	Timing of Administration
<i>Non-prescription Drugs</i>		
Meclizine hydrochloride (Dramamine II, Bonine)	One or two 25 mg tablets	1 hour before first EC dose; repeat if needed in 24 hours
Diphenhydramine hydrochloride (Benadryl)	One or two 25 mg tablets or capsules.	1 hour before first EC dose; repeat as needed every 4-6 hours
Dimenhydrinate (Dramamine)	One or two 50 mg tablets or 4-8 teaspoons liquid	30 minutes to 1 hour before first ECP dose; repeat as needed every 4-6 hours
Cyclizine hydrochloride (Marezine)	One 50 mg tablet	30 minutes before first EC dose; repeat as needed every 4-6 hours

Appendix 3 – Title 16, Section 1707.1 of the California Code of Regulations

§1707.1. Duty to Maintain Medication Profiles (Patient Medication Records).

(a) A pharmacy shall maintain medication profiles on all patients who have prescriptions filled in that pharmacy except when the pharmacist has reasonable belief that the patient will not continue to obtain prescription medications from that pharmacy.

(1) A patient medication record shall be maintained in an automated data processing or manual record mode such that the following information is readily retrievable during the pharmacy's normal operating hours.

(A) The patient's full name and address, telephone number, date of birth (or age) and gender;

(B) For each prescription dispensed by the pharmacy:

1. The name, strength, dosage form, route of administration, if other than oral, quantity and directions for use of any drug dispensed;
2. The prescriber's name and where appropriate, license number, DEA registration number or other unique identifier;
3. The date on which a drug was dispensed or refilled;
4. The prescription number for each prescription; and
5. The information required by section 1717.

(C) Any of the following which may relate to drug therapy: patient allergies, idiosyncrasies, current medications and relevant prior medications including nonprescription medications and relevant devices, or medical conditions which are communicated by the patient or the patient's agent.

(D) Any other information which the pharmacist, in his or her professional judgment, deems appropriate.

(2) The patient medication record shall be maintained for at least one year from the date when the last prescription was filled.

Authority cited: Sections 4005, 4121 and 4122, of the Business and Professions Code.

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